

Kathmandu -- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a Flood Recovery Program at Birgunj today that will provide \$4.5 Million to support the victims of the 2007 flooding in the Terai.

The objective of USAID/Nepal's Flood Recovery Program (USAID-NFRP) is to improve the livelihoods of flood affected people in Nepal through provision of goods and services. USAID/Nepal, with its contractors, will rehabilitate and improve community infrastructure, provide income-generating activities, improve community health through training on sanitation and nutrition, and facilitate the participation of local community organizations in development activities. Outreach and awareness campaigns for the protection of women and children and other initiatives will also be part of the project.

USAID-NFRP is currently operating in Parsa, Bara and Rautahat districts of the Central region and in Kailali, Bardiya and Banke districts of the Mid/Far Western regions in the Terai. In each of these six districts, ten VDCs were selected for initial program support based on the severity of the 2007 floods and current levels of vulnerability relative to other VDCs.

Today's launch ceremony marks the first USAID-NFRP infrastructure project, under which a 475 meter long riverbank protection wall is being constructed in Barainiya VDC to protect over 275 households from further flooding and erosion damage.

During July-August 2007, heavy monsoon rains, lasting for a period of more than three weeks, caused considerable damage and human suffering in Nepal. Flooding and landslides affected 50 of the 75 districts in the country, with more than 600,000 lives disrupted because of livelihood, infrastructural and other losses. Recognizing the severity of the 2007 floods, USAID/Nepal initiated the 24-month long USAID/Nepal Flood Recovery Program (USAID-NFRP).

USAID-NFRP began in May 2008 and is being implemented by Fintrac Inc., a U.S. agribusiness firm, along with local partner METCON Consultants and other organizations working in the Terai.